



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

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District Man Found Guilty of 2007 Father's Day Weekend Slaying of Father of Three

Washington D.C. - Joseph Thomas, a 25-year-old resident of the District of Columbia, was found guilty on September 21, 2009, of crimes related to the June 15, 2007, slaying of Andrew Brown, a father of three, in the 200 block of 37th Place, SE, Washington, D.C., announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. The jury found Thomas guilty of Second Degree Murder while Armed and related gun charges, along with two counts of Obstruction of Justice, and two counts of Attempted Subornation of Perjury. Sentencing in the case is scheduled for December 8, 2009. At sentencing, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of more than 50 years imprisonment. The Honorable Judge Herbert Dixon presided over the trial.

According to the evidence elicited during the two week trial, on June 15, 2007, the defendant twice approached Mr. Brown while he stood in the 200 block of 37th Place, SE. The first time, the defendant, who was armed with a pistol that he held at his side, threatened Mr. Brown and then left. A few minutes later, the defendant returned and came within eight to ten feet of Mr. Brown and then, without provocation, opened fire. The decedent unsuccessfully tried to flee, but was fatally struck in the back with a single bullet.

In September 2007, the Metropolitan Police Department executed a search warrant at the defendant's home and found the pistol used in the murder of Mr. Brown. Subsequently, the defendant was arrested and charged with murder. Following his arrest, the defendant concocted an elaborate plan to blame a deceased third-party for the murder of Andrew Brown. The defendant attempted to recruit others to further this lie. At trial, the government produced a series of recorded calls, letters, and notes in which the defendant scripted his manufactured defense.

In announcing the jury's verdicts, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly praised the work of Violent Crimes Branch Detectives Robert Arrington and Dwayne Partman, and Sixth District Officer Andrew Dawidowicz. He also commended the work of Legal Assistant Kelly Blakeney and Litigation Technology Specialist Leif Hickling. Finally, he praised the outstanding work of

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Lynn Haaland, who indicted the murder charges and helped prepare the case for trial, Michael Ambrosino, who presented arguments during the motions hearing, and Sharad Khandelwal, who indicted the obstruction of justice charges and prosecuted the case at trial.

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